



Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

CP1353 Gareenleen Solar - Kellis 220kV Substation [Exempted Development] County Carlow

In accordance with Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC) and Regulation 42(1) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 as amended ('the Regulations'), EirGrid has undertaken Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge and the Conservation Objectives of relevant European sites, if CP1353 Gareenleen Solar - Kellis 220kV [Exempted Development] ('the Development') individually or in-combination with other plans or projects would be likely to result in likely significant effects on a European site(s).

The Development comprises the construction of two 110kV transformer bays and carrying out of associated works entirely within the existing Kellis 220 kV Substation.

Analysis of Pathways to European sites

The nearest European sites to the Kellis 220kV Station are the Slaney River Valley Special Area of Conservation (SAC)¹ (approximately 4.6km distant) and River Barrow and River Nore SAC² (approximately 9.1km distant). There is no hydrological connectivity to the Slaney River SAC. The development is within the Barrow river catchment, upstream of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC. The development is not within any *Margaritifera* Sensitive area (i.e. catchments), for Qualifying Interest (QI) freshwater pearl mussel *Margaritifera margaritifera*.

There are no watercourses or drainage ditches within the boundary of the Kellis Station, and as such no hydrological connectivity to the SAC from the development.

As such, there will be no likely significant effects on other Qualifying Interest (QI) species of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC, including white-clawed crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes*, lamprey species, twaite shad *Alosa fallax*, Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar* and otter *Lutra lutra*.

Potential noise and visual disturbance impacts to QI species foraging, resting or ranging beyond the designated site boundary were also excluded, following consideration of the location and nature of the works involved (which excludes piling or instream works). Therefore, there is no potential for disturbance impacts to mobile QI species utilising functionally linked habitats.

There are no other European sites nearby, or potentially connected to the Development via a source-pathway-receptor link that may result in likely significant effects in view of the applicable site Conservation Objectives.

AA Screening Statement

In accordance with Regulation 42(7) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 SI 477 as amended, EirGrid has made a Determination following screening that an Appropriate Assessment is not required as the project individually or in combination with other plans or projects is not likely to have a significant effect on any European sites. The risk of likely significant effects on European sites can be excluded on the basis of objective evidence.

This Determination is based on the location, scale, extent and duration of the development, including temporary works, and has not taken account of mitigation measures intended to avoid or reduce significant effects on European sites.

Signed:

¹ NPWS (2011) Conservation Objectives: Slaney River Valley SAC 000781. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

² NPWS (2011) Conservation Objectives: River Barrow and River Nore SAC 002162. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

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